

Abstract of the Disclosure

5 A protocol translation cable assembly includes a first connector having a first plurality of pins, a second connector having a second plurality of pins, and an electrical cable coupling the first connector to the second connector, where the electrical cable includes a plurality of conductors. The protocol translation cable assembly further includes translation circuitry coupled to at least some of the plurality of wires of the electric cable at points between the first plurality of pins of the first connector and the second plurality of pins of the second connector. The translation circuitry preferably derives its power from the electrical cable such that  
10 separate power supplies are not required. The cable assembly therefore provides transparent "plug-and-play" capabilities.